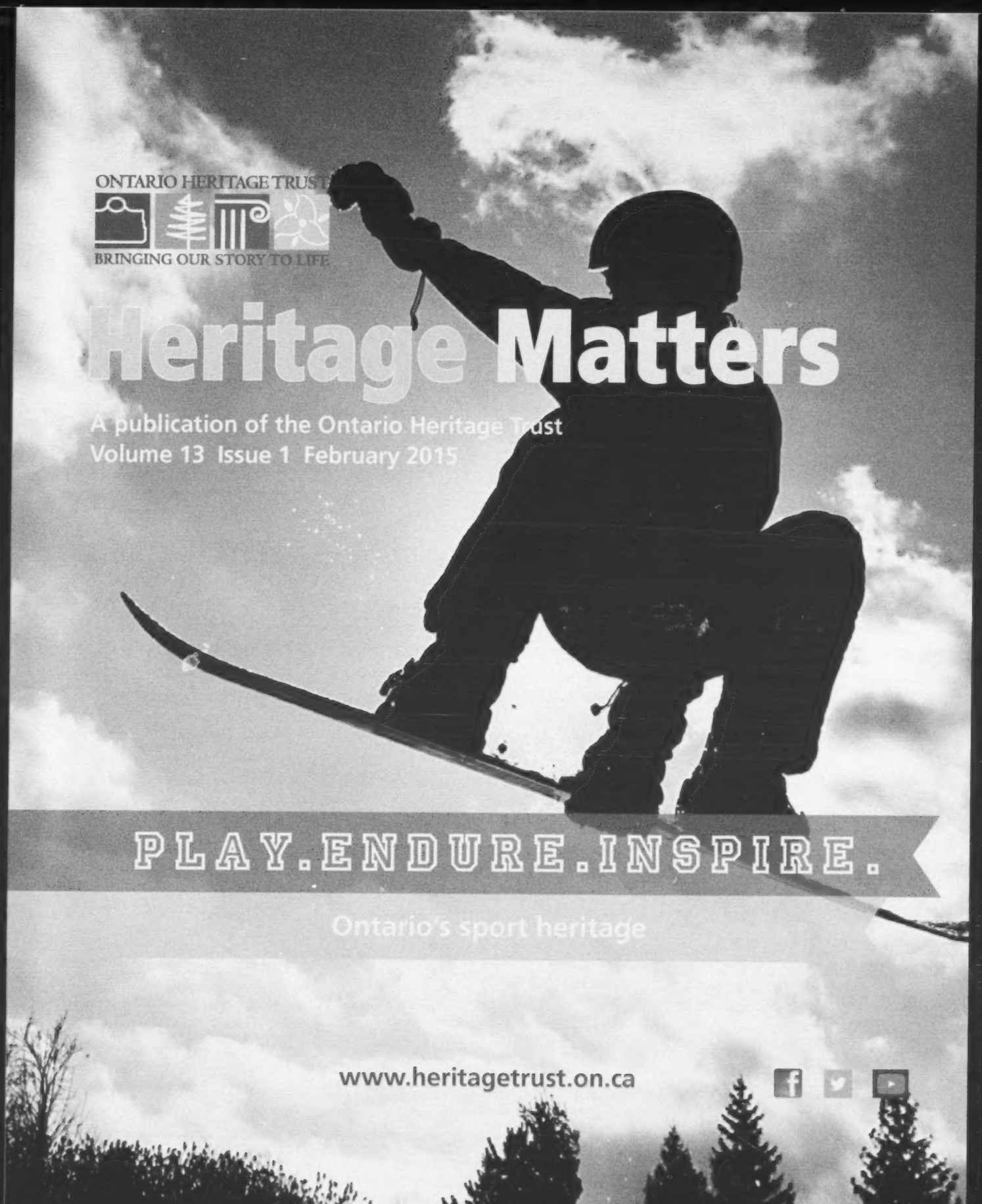

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST
BRINGING OUR STORY TO LIFE
Heritage Matters
A publication of the Ontario Heritage Trust
Volume 13 Issue 1 February 2015
PLAY.ENDURE.INSPIRE.
Ontario's sport heritage
www.heritagetrust.on.ca

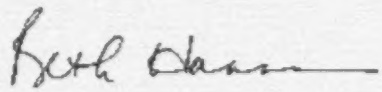
Play. Endure. Inspire. Ontario's sport heritage

In July, Ontario will open its doors to 7,000 athletes from 41 countries across the Americas to compete in the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. In honour of this occasion, the Ontario Heritage Trust is sharing and celebrating the stories of Ontario's sport history, including the traditions, innovations and heroes from its earliest periods. And what a wealth of stories there is to tell! We are also taking a look at the many ways that sport has influenced our culture – through art, music, literature, even everyday language.

In this issue of Heritage Matters, experts on the history of sport provide a range of diverse perspectives on the subject. Professor Bruce Kidd discusses the contribution of sport in the development of Ontario society. You'll read about the struggles and achievements of aboriginal athletes and the fascinating account of how the Torontolympiad helped bring parasport into mainstream popular culture. You'll also learn how socio-economic changes between the World Wars found expression through the creation of Canada's largest hockey arena. And you'll follow the rise and fall of an international sport equipment icon that quite literally had its roots here in Ontario.

We hope that these stories will inspire you to learn more. But they are just the beginning. Interested in digging a little deeper into this topic? We are also launching Snapshots of Ontario's sport heritage, an online resource filled with stories of inventors, coaches, teams and athletes that have influenced the history of sport across the province. It features landmarks, artifacts, literature, artwork and music that demonstrate the tremendous impact of sport on our culture (see www.heritagetrust.on.ca/sports). And from April to October through Doors Open Ontario 2015, 200 communities across the province will open the doors to heritage sites that showcase their sports heroes and chronicle their own sports history. Visit the Doors Open website to plan your weekend excursions (www.doorsopenontario.on.ca).

The Trust is indebted to Professor Bruce Kidd, the Sport Alliance of Ontario, numerous sports halls of fame, the Archives of Ontario, KidSport and TO2015 for their assistance in researching and developing the Ontario's Sport Heritage initiative.



Beth Hanna
CEO, Ontario Heritage Trust

Contents

Sport matters: The value of sport to society, by Bruce Kidd **2** **A night out at the Gardens,** by Russell Field **6** **Aboriginal athletes: Competing for recognition,** by Janice Forsyth **9** **Disability in sport,** by David Legg and Ian Brittain **12** **Stick handling: The evolution of an icon,** by Bruce Dowbiggin **15** **Sport heritage by the numbers,** by Laura Walter **18** **Resources 20**

This issue of Heritage Matters, published in English and French, has a combined circulation of 43,000. Archived copies of Heritage Matters are available on our website at www.heritagetrust.on.ca/hm.

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Produced by the Ontario Heritage Trust (an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport).

Editor Gordon Pim **Graphic Designer** Manuel Oliveira
Editorial Committee: Beth Hanna, Sean Fraser, Paul Dempsey, Wayne Kelly, Michael Sawchuck, Sam Wesley, Laura Walter and Alan Wojcik
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Publication Agreement Number 1738690
E&OE ISSN 1198-2454 (Print)
ISSN 1911-446X (PDF/Online)
02/15
Aussi disponible en français.

Ontario

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Cover: "And now I'm flying like an angel to the sun," by Alex Indigo (www.flickr.com/photos/alexindigo).

Ontario: A culture enriched through its sporting traditions

Informed by geography, history, traditions and values, sport is part of every culture. It has been celebrated in written and oral traditions for thousands of years. It includes the informal matches played by children on the playground, as well as the international team and individual competitions that draw huge crowds. Sport also encompasses many of our recreational pursuits in every village, town and city in Ontario.

Our sport history reflects who we are as a society. It embraces an array of connections, convictions, legends and beliefs – including: Aboriginal roots; a sense of connection to the land and water (and to ice and snow); patriotism, civic duty; a Victorian sense of fair play; community pride; and a Franco-Ontarian sense of occasion and identity. Drawing on traditions from across the province – and from across Canada and the globe – the modern character of sport in Ontario reflects the immense diversity of our province. To a large extent, who we are as Ontarians and what we value is closely connected to the sports we play and follow, and which sports figures we admire.

Many of our arenas and stadiums have become landmarks in our communities, notably Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens National Historic Site (now the Mattamy Athletic Centre) – whose status in popular culture is close to that of a secular shrine. While Ontarians have often dominated hockey globally, it is important that we not forget other achievements – such as those of women's golf champion Ada Mackenzie or the work of M.M. Robinson in the creation of the British Empire (now Commonwealth) Games, and the determination and sheer heroism of so many athletes with disabilities.

The global leadership demonstrated by Ontarians in bringing parasport into the mainstream through the 1976 Toronto Paralympics is also cause for celebration, as are the achievements of many remarkable indigenous athletes like Tom Longboat, Fred Simpson and George Armstrong. Nor should we forget our ancient sport heritage. Described by Father Brébeuf in the 17th century, lacrosse (the Creator's game) was practised as a spiritual and healing endeavour for centuries before the arrival of the Europeans. In time, it became Canada's official summer team sport – and is also now played at schools and colleges around the world from Oxford to New Delhi.

As Ontario prepares to host and celebrate the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, we should be conscious that it will be adding another chapter to the story of the key role that sport has played in the life of the province.

Tom Symons

Thomas H.B. Symons
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Chairman

Sport matters: The value of sport to society

By Bruce Kidd

No account of Ontario's heritage would be complete without some understanding of the ways in which Ontarians have engaged in sport. In every time period – from the aboriginal millennia before the European arrivals, through the fur trade, the first agricultural settlements, urbanization and industrialization to the information-driven city/regions of today – the peoples who have lived here have given purpose, excitement and meaning to their lives through physical tests of strength and sports.

Each of these societies has given its own particular character to sports. In the 19th century, for example, when most people had to walk to get anywhere, huge crowds watched the professional sport of pedestrianism or "go as you please," in which athletes walked and ran long distances, sometimes days at a time. The early railroads, which enabled teams to travel great distances (and which ran on the newly established standardized time), as well as mass production, which gave us standardized equipment, gradually led communities to adopt the same rules. Before that time, every town had its own unique way of playing.

Just as they were shaped by these economic and social changes, sports also contributed to them. The fascination of sports spurred passenger (and later automobile and plane) traffic, technological innovation, urban investment and advances in communication. The spread of sports has been inextricably linked with the development of Ontario society.

Today, in many Ontario households and communities, the calendar of life revolves around school, work and sports. Celebrated teams give pride of place and economic stimulus. Arenas and stadia provide key landmarks, draw larger congregations than places of worship, and bring people together across the divides of class, culture and religion in a common devotion to the home team. Many of the best facilities commemorate formative episodes in our history, such as First and Second World War memorial arenas that dot the landscape, or the recreation centres

"Volleyball" c. 1914. P013, Accession 1991-01-258. Photo courtesy of the City of Thunder Bay Archives.

built to celebrate Canada's centennial. I have never been to a local history museum that did not have some artifact or display on sports.

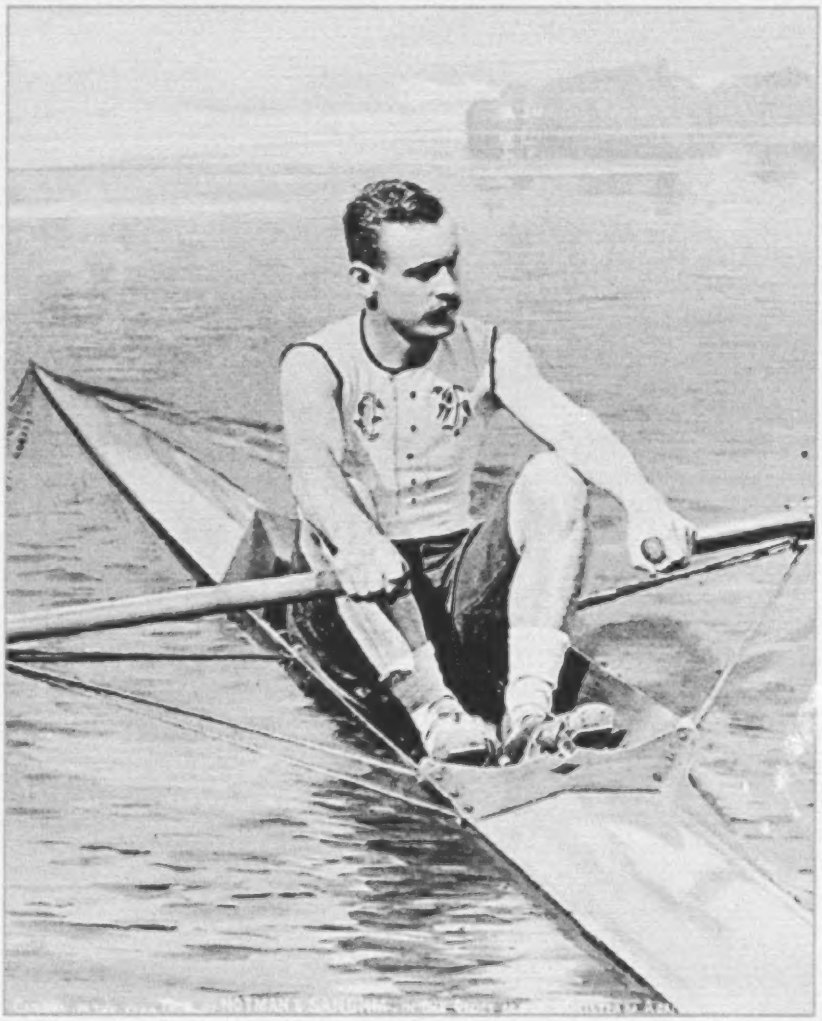
Of course, the best stories about Ontario sport revolve around the athletes and teams who have played here, enriching our lives with their heroics and travails, and affording us lessons about the human experience long afterwards. In the 19th century, it was rower Ned Hanlan – who won and held the world's professional singles championship for five years against much larger Americans, Britons and Australians – who first gave Toronto and Ontario international renown rivalling that of the larger and more-established Montreal. Early in the 20th century, the remarkable Onondaga marathon runner Tom Longboat enhanced that reputation. When he won the Boston Marathon in 1907, running for the West End YMCA in Toronto, city controller William Hubbard said that "I don't know anyone who has done more to help the Commissioner of Industries than this man Longboat."

Every generation makes role models out of its favourite athletes. When I was growing up in the 1950s, a number of the young women in my neighborhood were named Barbara in hopes that they would grow up with the same artistry and determination as the Ottawa figure skater and Olympic champion, Barbara Ann Scott. Although he has not lived in Parry Sound since he was a teenager, Bobby Orr's name lives on in town with two buildings named after the outstanding hockey player: a multi-purpose community centre and a hockey hall of fame. Many cities, towns and regions have their own sports halls of fame. It is not only Stanley Cup-starved Toronto that lives and dies by the fortunes of its signature teams. It happens every weekend in every town across Canada.

But not everyone has had equal access to sports in Ontario. Sports were initially developed, played and celebrated as part of men's culture, with girls and women kept to the sidelines. Well into the 20th century, members of First Nations, Blacks, non-British immigrants and the working class were also excluded or discouraged – by explicit prohibition, prejudice or economic hardship.

One of the most inspiring narratives of Ontario sport is the way in which those excluded fought to win opportunities for themselves, while progressives helped them. At first, those excluded held their own events and formed their own clubs and organizations. During the first wave of feminism, women did this under the slogan "Girls' sports run by girls," creating their own clubs, provincial and national organizations and competing in their own Olympics. The Ladies' Golf Club of Toronto, established in 1924 by Ada Mackenzie in Thornhill, is a remnant of this effort. It is the only surviving women's-only club in North America.

Virtually every immigrant group, as soon as it developed a critical mass, did the same. For much of the 20th century, for example, Finnish Canadians –



Ned Hanlan, 1878. Photo courtesy of Library and Archives Canada.

Men's 4 x 100-metre relay gold medal ceremony, 1996 (Bruny Surin, Glenroy Gilbert, Donovan Bailey and Robert Esmie). Photo courtesy of the Canadian Olympic Committee.

whether in mining or lumber camps in northern and northwestern Ontario or in large cities such as Thunder Bay, Sudbury or Toronto – ran ambitious programs and brought everyone together every summer for a provincewide gymnastics festival. In the 21st century, Asian immigrants did the same with kabaddi, sepak takraw and Chinese volleyball. Sometimes, the skill and élan of outstanding athletes from marginalized groups helped them overcome prejudice, enter the mainstream and legitimize their entire group. One such story is that of Fanny "Bobbie" Rosenfeld, after whom the annual Canadian female athlete of the year trophy is named. In the early 1920s, Rosenfeld was a poor, Russian, Jewish immigrant living in Barrie before her accomplishments in ice hockey, softball and track and field took her to Toronto and ultimately an influential journalism career at The Globe and Mail.

While these struggles for equity in Ontario sport – and in society generally – continue to this day, they have been significantly aided by the creation of municipal and provincial facilities and programs. Human rights legislation also set higher standards for inclusion. In the 1920s, the Ontario Athletic Commission taxed professional sport to fund learn-to-swim programs in schools, subsidize amateur sports and build Canada's first high-performance sport training centre (near Longford Mills – it is still used today as the Ontario Educational Leadership Centre). Ontario was the first government in Canada to fund amateur sports in a systematic way. Today, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport continues that tradition, enabling Ontario's best amateur athletes to reach the highest levels of competition, while the Ontario Human Rights Code protects against gender, racial or religious discrimination.

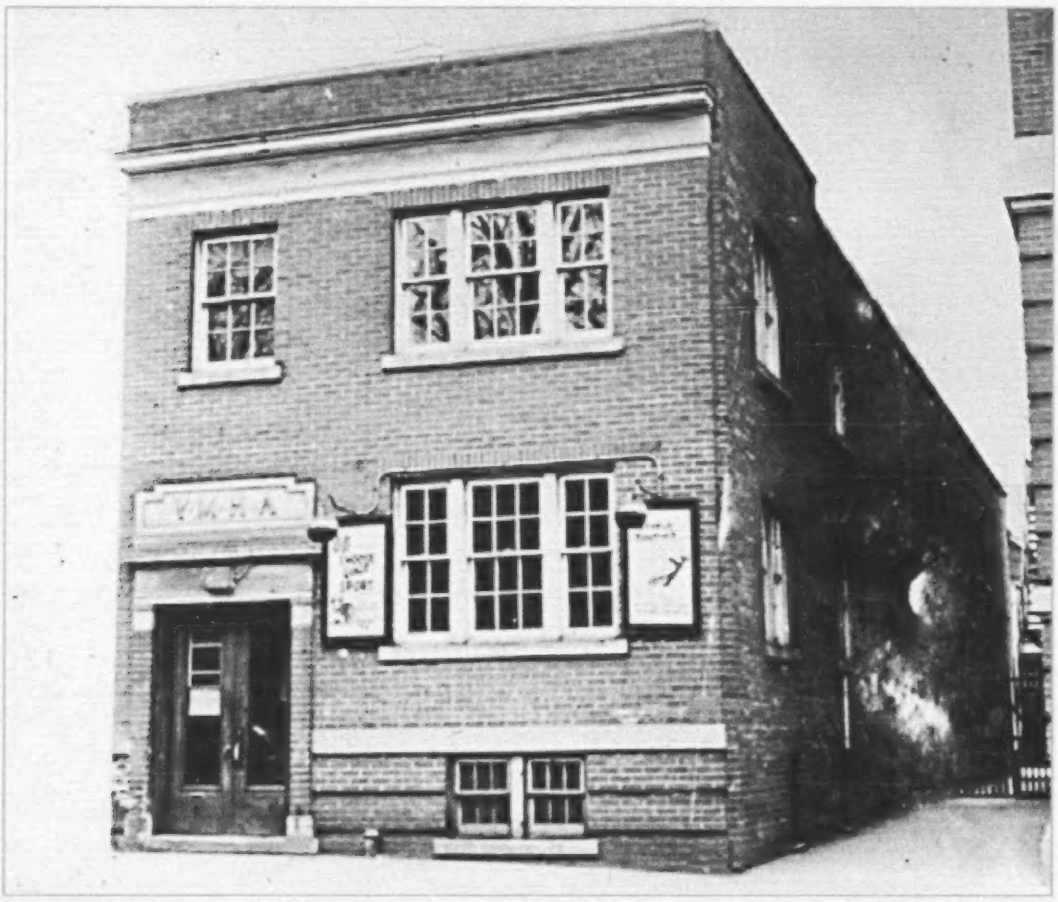
Among the long list of Ontario's contributions to sport and society is the strategy of using major games to drive urban redevelopment, capital expansion and community development through sport. In the late 1920s, a group of Hamilton sports leaders led by

M.M. Robinson felt that they needed another cycle of international games to keep interest in amateur sport high during the four years between Olympic Games, and that such an event could strengthen community-building in host cities and regions. As a result of their efforts, they staged the British Empire Games in Hamilton in 1930. Despite the onset of the Depression, those games were so successful that, except for a hiatus during the Second World War, they continue to this day – now known as the Commonwealth Games.

In the decades since, many Canadian cities have benefited from the investment and excitement that the Olympic, Commonwealth and Pan American Games have generated, and Canada has earned an international reputation for successfully staging them. But except for the Canada and Ontario Games, which pursue the same strategy, Ontario has never hosted another one. Until this year.

The TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, exemplify the strategy of capacity-building through sports, with major new and upgraded infrastructure and facilities across the entire Greater Toronto Area and beyond (from Welland to Oshawa), the training of volunteers and local financial contributions to maximize the commitment to lasting legacies. I am confident that these Games will inspire new and moving narratives about human capacities, while making a significant, positive impact on the quality of life in the region. In doing so, they will further enrich the value of sport to Ontario society.

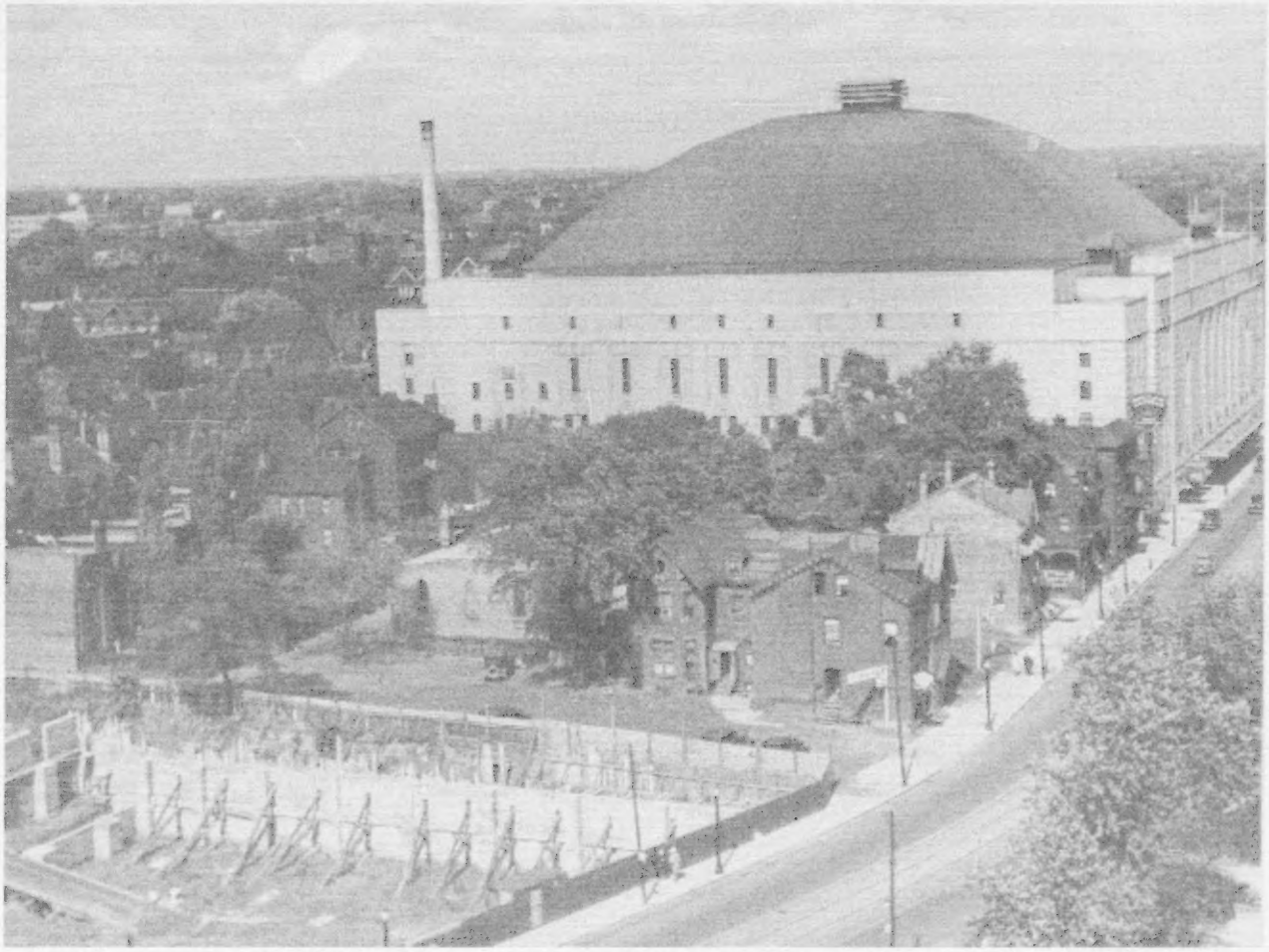
Bruce Kidd is Vice President of the University of Toronto and Principal of University of Toronto Scarborough. A former Olympic runner, Kidd was voted Ontario's Athlete of the Year in 1961.



YMHA/YWHA building at 15 Brunswick Avenue in Toronto, c. 1960. Photo courtesy of the Ontario Jewish Archives.

A night out at the Gardens

By Russell Field



Maple Leaf Gardens, shown here, was designated a National Historic Site by the Government of Canada in 2007 – the only hockey arena in the country with this designation

Before the opening of the now-iconic Maple Leaf Gardens, the hockey team after whom the building was named played its games in Arena Gardens. Also known locally as the Mutual Street Arena, Arena Gardens was the National Hockey League's (NHL) largest arena until 1923. Opened in December 1912, Ontario's first artificial ice rink had, according to the Toronto Daily Star, "room for 2,000 skaters and 7,000 spectators." Typical of arenas built in this era when facilities were intended as much for recreational community use as spectator sports, the Arena Gardens set aside Friday nights for public skating.

At the time, what was referred to as senior amateur hockey was as popular a spectator event as the emerging professional game, if not more so. But by 1930, the situation had reversed itself and the local team, now named the Maple Leafs, was being run by Conn Smythe, owner of a local gravel business.

Smythe would recall that, at Arena Gardens in 1930, "about half the time we were packing in 9,000 counting standees, but still weren't grossing enough to pay our players what they could have been getting with the richer teams in the US." It was this example of United States-based teams who were playing in new, larger facilities – such as New York City's Madison Square Garden and the cavernous Chicago Stadium – that compelled Smythe to build a new hockey arena in Toronto. By owning the arena, he would not only control its use, but also retain all of the ticket and concession revenues.

Cultural and economic circumstances were markedly different for commercial hockey in Toronto

just two decades after Arena Gardens' opening, and public skating was not a feature of the arenas of the 1920s-30s. The defining feature of these new sporting palaces was that, above all, they catered to spectators interested in spending disposable income on watching sporting events.

The experience of the hockey spectator (indeed any spectator) in the 1920s and 1930s did not occur within a vacuum, but among an increasing array of consumption possibilities. Accordingly, the building of Maple Leaf Gardens is best understood not solely in terms of developments in professional hockey and the NHL, but alongside the construction of other major sites of public consumption in interwar Toronto – including theatres and cinemas for the new talking motion pictures, public entertainment spaces such as Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion and Maple Leaf Stadium (built for baseball), renovations to the Royal Ontario Museum and construction of Eaton's College Street store in 1930.

To compete in the burgeoning entertainment economy of the late 1920s, entrepreneurs envisioned sport spaces that would exclude – or at least be seen to attempt to exclude – disreputable elements such as gambling and instead project an aura of middle-class respectability.

Spectators at Maple Leaf Gardens, 1940s. Photo courtesy of City of Toronto Archives.

In Toronto, this meant locating the new arena in the neighbourhood of another civic institution that was wooing the respectable middle-class consumer, Eaton's College Street department store, which owned the land on which Maple Leaf Gardens would eventually be built.

Smythe opted for the same architectural firm, Ross and Macdonald, which had designed Eaton's flagship store. Their architects created Toronto's largest indoor gathering

space, one that supported the Maple Leafs' efforts to gentrify the practice of sport spectating without eliminating the possibility of distinctions within the arena. The nature of the seating, for example, was increasingly less comfortable as one travelled higher in the arena, and the building was designed to prevent spectators from moving between the different tiers of seats.

It was into this environment that Smythe hoped to attract his preferred respectable middle-class spectator, a spectator who was likely male, but who would feel that Maple Leaf Gardens offered sufficient comfort to bring a female companion. But, in light of these expectations, who from among Toronto's population of more than 600,000 citizens opted to spend their evenings attending hockey games? An analysis of ticket subscription records from the mid-1930s reveals that Maple Leaf Gardens indeed attracted middle-class men and women.

But while Smythe was more interested in gentrifying the practice of watching hockey rather than the game itself, the presence of a middle-class audience does not imply that its members spectated in "respectable" ways. The spectator experience cannot be easily distilled to a single experience. Indeed, it was a pastiche of different experiences. Certainly, many spectators took pleasure in the spectacle that unfolded on the ice surface before them, both in the speed of the game and its (oftentimes violent) physicality. But it was not the spectacle alone that attracted the spectator. The opportunity to share the experience with others was also important.

The fact that the average ticket subscriber purchased slightly more than two tickets suggests that attending hockey games was a social experience. This held true regardless of social standing, although in Maple Leaf Gardens' expensive box seats, subscribers were more likely to have purchased numerous tickets and host a group of spectators. In the less expensive seats, it was more common to find spectators with a connection to one another – for instance, neighbours or co-workers – who individually purchased adjacent seats. Former spectators recall the ways in which hockey spectating was a social occasion: a parent taking a child to his/her first game, a couple going on a date, as well as couples attending in groups.

Perhaps most interestingly, while many women entered the arena accompanied by men, there were women who went to hockey games in the company of other women. One female spectator recalled how she and five companions, all female, went to professional hockey games in Toronto every Saturday from 1925 to 1931. This dedicated group began spectating prior to the opening of Maple Leaf Gardens, but with the construction of this modern, new arena, their weekly outings took on the air of an occasion as the sextet dressed in their finest each Saturday night. This woman, whose grandson recounted her story, recalled the "fashion show in the stands" where she and her friends sat in Maple Leaf Gardens' grey seats, the cheapest seats, most distant from the ice.

Spectators at Maple Leaf Gardens, 1940s. Photo courtesy of City of Toronto Archives.

While elite hockey spectating has its origins as a male pastime in the new spaces of sport in the interwar years, women increasingly attended games and enjoyed themselves and spent their disposable income at Canada's most prominent sport venue.

Russell Field is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management at the University of Manitoba.

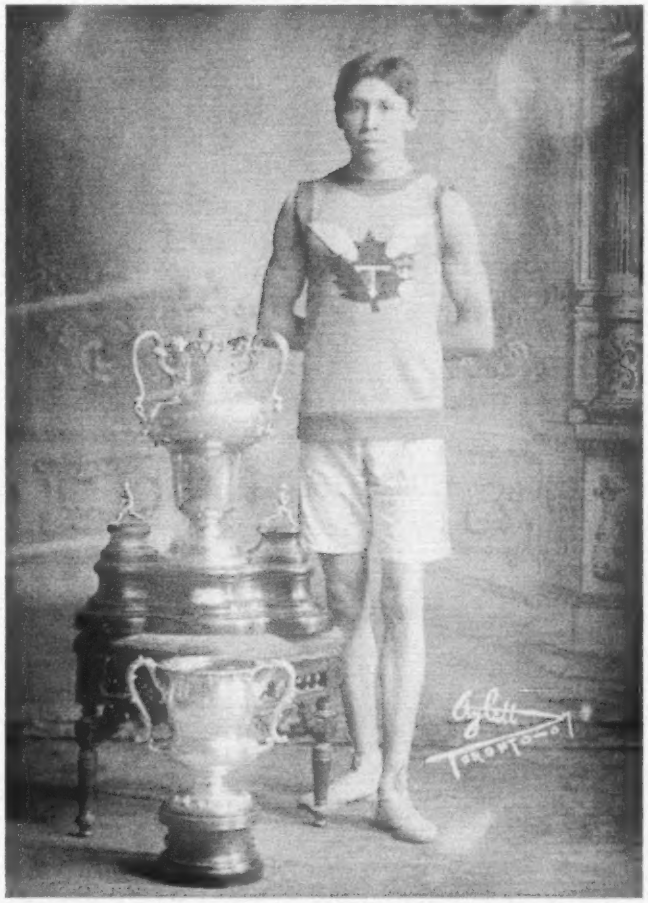
Aboriginal athletes: Competing for recognition

By Janice Forsyth

When people are asked to think of a famous Aboriginal athlete in Canada, they likely often think of Tom Longboat, the Onondaga runner from the Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve in Brantford, Ontario. That Longboat comes to mind first is not surprising, given his accomplishments and the ways he has been remembered by the public.

During his athletic career, he won numerous high-profile races (including the Boston Marathon), held the world record in the 15-mile event and competed in the 1908 Olympic Games in London, England. When he was at the top of his game, he was one of the best-known athletes in the world. Newspaper reporters in Canada and the United States followed his every move, printing stories about his training habits, his lifestyle and even his family life. He was a modern-day celebrity, especially in Toronto where he lived and worked for many years.

After Longboat passed away in 1949, there began a trend in memorializing him that continues to this day. In 1951, the then-Department of Indian Affairs (the federal agency responsible for First Nations administration in Canada) in conjunction with the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada (the national governing body for amateur sport at the time) established the Tom Longboat Awards to recognize his accomplishments and to celebrate the ongoing achievements of Aboriginal athletes throughout the country. Longboat was also inducted posthumously into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 1955, the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame in 1960, the Canadian Indian Hall of Fame in 1967, and the Canadian Road Running Hall of Fame in 1991. In 1999, Maclean's magazine named Longboat the top star of the 20th century. In 2000, Canada Post memorialized him by creating a commemorative stamp for its millennium collection. And, in 2010, the Ontario provincial legislature set aside June 4 as Tom Longboat Day in Ontario. Few athletes have been remembered in so many ways.



Tom Longboat with running trophies (April 22, 1907). Photo courtesy of Library and Archives Canada.

Given his credentials, it is not hard to see why Longboat dominates our public memory. Certainly his performances are worthy of recognition. Yet, our preoccupation with Longboat clouds our ability to recognize and appreciate the diverse range of experiences that Aboriginal athletes have had in Canadian sport. It leads to the misconception that all we need to know about Aboriginal people in sport can be gleaned from existing histories on

Longboat, thus obscuring the different ways that social, political and economic inequality continue to marginalize Aboriginal people from organized sport.

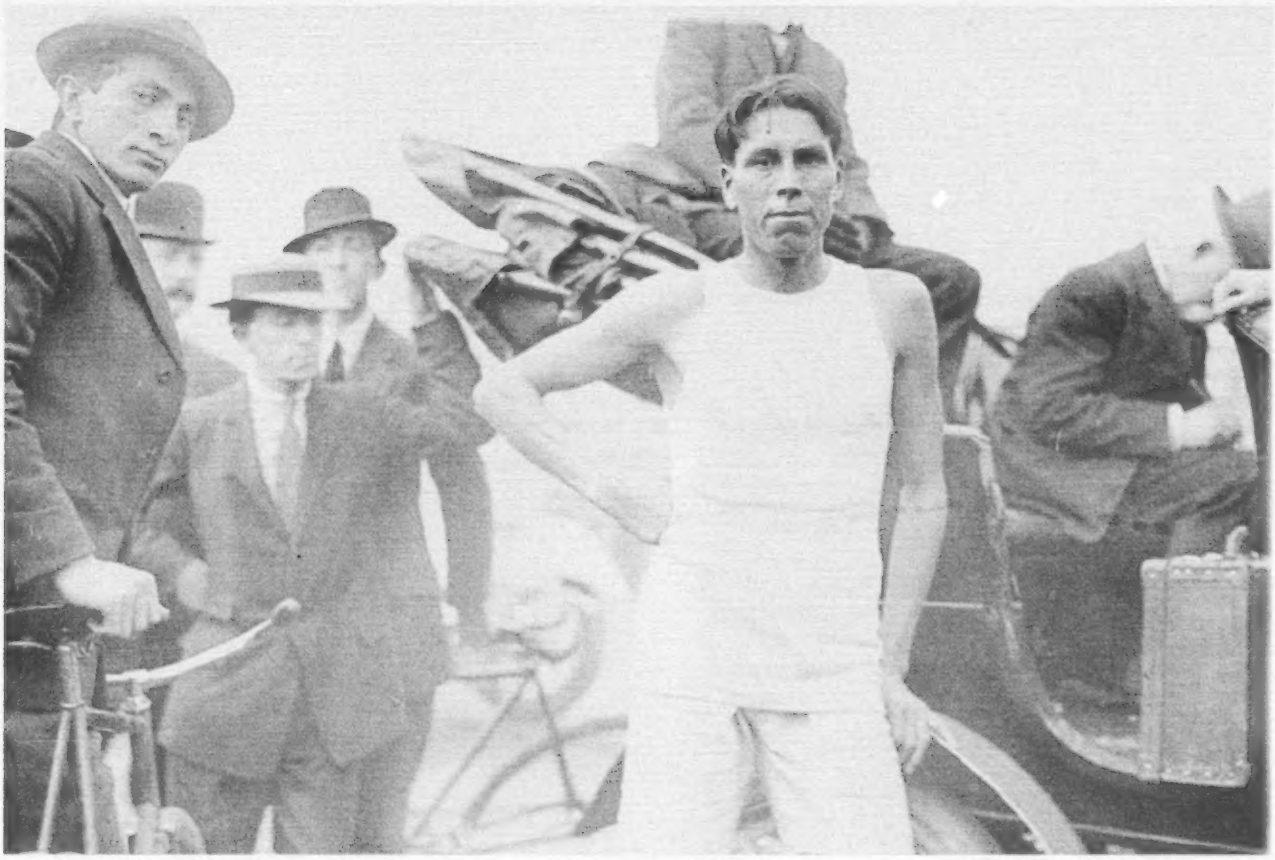
By examining the experiences of Ontario's Aboriginal athletes, we can better understand what they had to cope with in order to participate and excel in sport. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, when Longboat was competing, southern Ontario was part of a corridor of sporting activity that stretched along the St. Lawrence River from Toronto to Montreal. Here, newcomers and Aboriginal people competed alongside and against one another until middle-class reformers began distinguishing between professional and amateur athletes. Not wanting to lose to people who they thought were their social inferiors, supporters of amateur sport attempted to define who could and who could not compete on their teams and in their leagues.

During this era, First Nations people were often barred from amateur competitions because they were automatically thought to be professionals (people who profited from their involvement in sport) and because of racist assumptions about their having natural athletic talent. This assumption happened in lacrosse, where, for instance, in 1880, the National Amateur Lacrosse Association banned First Nations people from competing in amateur events. Ostracized from the developing structure of sport, First Nations people formed their own teams and held their own Indian World Championships (comprised mostly of teams from Kahnawake, Quebec and St. Regis, New York). Later, they began competing in the new commercialized sport of box lacrosse. In 1990, more than 100 years later, members from the Six Nations of the Grand River re-entered competition as an indigenous nation called the Iroquois Nationals. They had turned to their own culture and resources and thrived in spite of the challenges they faced.

Tuscarora Team Six Nations, 1892. Lacrosse was believed by First Nations peoples to be a gift from the Creator for his enjoyment and for the people to show their love for nature. Photo courtesy of the Six Nations Public Library

The southern Ontario corridor was also a key zone for industrial development, which aided the growth of sport in the region. The invention of new technologies that emerged along with the development of factories led to the mass production of new sporting equipment. Aboriginal people, too, were part of this new economy. For instance, the Mohawks along the St. Lawrence River, especially from Akwesasne, Ontario, played a critical role in the production and distribution of lacrosse sticks throughout North America and the world. They were important consumers and producers of lacrosse at the turn of the century, and, with the continued operation of their factory, well into present day.

So it was along the corridor that we see the emergence of talented Aboriginal athletes, such as Fred Simpson – a Mississauga Ojibway from Alderville, Ontario.



Fred Simpson and entourage training in the United States, c. 1909. Photo courtesy of Alton Bigwin.

Simpson competed in foot racing during the same era as Longboat, and though he generated quite a bit of media attention, he never received the same level of interest or notoriety as Longboat. When he was 20 years old, he moved to Hiawatha, a reserve on the north side of Rice Lake, to be with this wife, Susan Muskrat, and joined the ranks of manual labourers who hired themselves out for seasonal employment.

It was during his time in Hiawatha that Simpson began running competitively. His training runs often took him from the reserve to Peterborough, a distance of about 17 kilometres. In 1906, at age 28 – a remarkable age to take up sport – Simpson entered his first competition: the Peterborough Examiner Road Race. And won. (By way of comparison, Longboat was 19 when he started competing.) Soon afterwards, Simpson joined the YMCA Harriers in Peterborough and, by 1908, had become one of the top runners in the world. He placed sixth in the marathon at the Olympic Games in London, England (Longboat did not finish due to heat stroke).

Unlike Longboat, Simpson was unable to make a living from his athleticism. He turned professional after the 1908 Olympic Games and retired in 1912 to be with his family at home.

His story, along with those of other untold stories of Aboriginal athletes in sport, is worthy of attention. These athletes lived through profound changes, including the development and implementation of the Indian Act, the signing of the treaties, the creation of reserves and the development of the Indian residential school system, all of which shaped their ability to get involved and stay involved in sport – a pattern that needs to be understood to appreciate the sporting experiences of Aboriginal athletes today.

Janice Forsyth is the Director, International Centre for Olympic Studies and assistant professor for the Faculty of Health Sciences at Western University.

Disability in sport

By David Legg and Ian Brittain

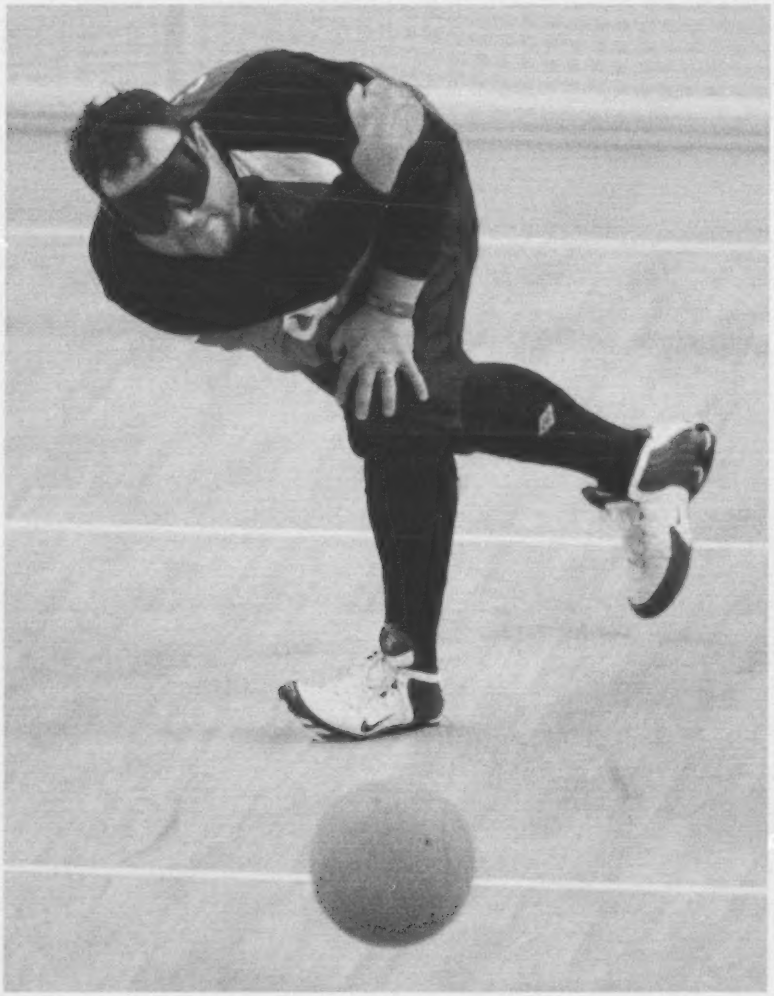
In August 2015, 12 days after the Pan American Games have concluded, the Golden Horseshoe will host the Parapan American Games. These parallel Games for athletes with disabilities will be the fifth time that they have occurred, the first being in Mexico City in 1999.

The Parapan Games are overseen by the International Paralympic Committee, which also oversees the Paralympic Games and provides elite sport opportunities for athletes with spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, visual impairment, intellectual disabilities and amputations, along with other disabling conditions. This is not the first time, however, that Canada has hosted a large multi-sport event for athletes with disabilities. Canada – and Ontario in particular – has a long and storied history and role in the Paralympic movement.

In 1967, Winnipeg wheelchair sport enthusiasts hosted a series of sporting competitions to coincide with the Pan American Games being held that year, although this was not officially recognized as a Parapan American Games. These Games, however, were significant in that the organizers, in attempting to connect with other wheelchair sport organizers from across the country, established the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association (CWSA) – the first disability sport organization in Canada. Parallel to this was the influence of Torontonian Dr. Robert Jackson.

Dr. Jackson was the orthopedic consultant for the Canadian Olympic team in Tokyo for the 1964 Olympic Games; he then became a visiting fellow at the Tokyo hospital where the second Paralympic Games took place (then called the International Stoke Mandeville Games, after the site where the Games originated in England). The leader of those Games was Dr. Ludwig Guttmann, also a surgeon from England whom Jackson wanted to meet because of his medical reputation. Jackson then requested a meeting with the Canadian delegation, of which there was none. It was here that Guttmann challenged Jackson to bring one to the next Games in 1968, a challenge that Jackson happily accepted. Jackson kept his word and Canada attended their first Paralympic Games in 1968 in Tel Aviv. Jackson also then became the first President of the CWSA.

Jeffery Penner of Kitchener, Para-Alpine Skiing, Paralympic Games in Torino, Italy (2006). Photo courtesy of the Canadian Paralympic Committee.



Rob Christy of Ottawa, Goalball, Paralympic Games in Beijing, China (2008). Credit: Mike Ridewood. Photo courtesy of the Canadian Paralympic Committee.

In 1976, Canada hosted the Olympic Games in Montreal. Jackson, having returned to Toronto, agreed to chair the organizing committee for a parallel games for athletes with disabilities. The Games, called the Torontolympiad for the Physically Disabled, were held in Etobicoke's Centennial Park. These Games turned out to be one of the most interesting – and controversial – Paralympics ever.

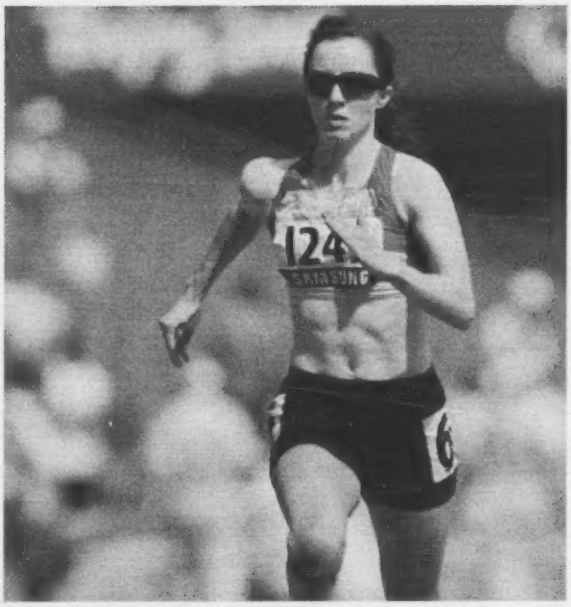
The first distinguishing feature of these Games was their inclusion of athletes with disabilities other than those with spinal injuries – such as those with amputations and visual impairments. Prior to this, only those with spinal injuries participated. (Those with cerebral palsy would not be included until 1980.) This would become the model for all future Paralympic sport competitions.

Other factors contributed to make these Games so significant. The 1970s was a time when South Africa and neighbouring countries had apartheid policies, which Canada and most of the world abhorred. Multiple sanctions were put into place to demonstrate international outrage, including the understanding that no country could have sports teams compete against any from South Africa. New Zealand's rugby team – the All Blacks – in wanting to test themselves against what were perceived as the world's best, defied this sanction and travelled to South Africa to compete against the Springboks. Outraged nations then alerted the host of the 1976 Montreal Olympics that unless New Zealand was banned from competing, a boycott would ensue. New Zealand was allowed to compete and a number of African nations

boycotted the Montreal Olympic Games.

Weeks later, the Torontolympiad faced a similar challenge – except this time, South Africa itself planned to attend. South African teams had competed at the Paralympic Games since Tokyo, and at all of the Games held at Stoke Mandeville in the intervening years (except in 1969).

Until 1975, South Africa had sent alternate teams of Black and white participants to the Stoke Mandeville Games (held annually), although it appears to have been the all-white teams that competed in the Paralympic Games (held every four years to coincide with the hosting of the Summer Olympics).



Stefanie Reid of Windsor, 100-metre sprint, Paralympic Games in Beijing, China (2008). Credit: Mike Ridewood. Photo courtesy of the Canadian Paralympic Committee.

The Toronto organizers knew that a team from South Africa in attendance created the possibility that the promised Canadian government funding of $500,000 for the Games would be withdrawn. It was eventually decided that South Africa could participate by the hosting committee provided that they brought an integrated team. In the end, South Africa did send a team of around 30 athletes, including nine who were Black

The ramifications of this event were many. Eight countries withdrew either before or during the Games on the orders of their governments. The Canadian government, true to its promise, also withdrew its funding although they did not prevent the entry of the South African team into Canada

The local media saw this as a battle worth fighting. On the front page of the March 10 edition of the Etobicoke Guardian was a cartoon of two arms with "federal government" written on the sleeves pushing a Black athlete in a wheelchair wearing a South African jersey, with the caption "Ottawa Threatens to Withdraw its $500,000 in Funding for the Olympiad for the Disabled if its Organizers Invite South Africans." The public responded with more than 10,000 donations and with ticket sales far exceeding expectations, including the opening ceremony, which was a 20,000-seat sell out. In the end, the organizers were able to break even.

The Canadian government, perhaps feeling sheepish about their decision, decided to use the money set aside for the Games to help fund the creation of various national organizations that became the foundation of the Canadian disability sport system.

The overall impact of the Torontolympiad on both future Paralympic Games and especially on attitudes toward disability and disability sport within Canada was immense. The Games marked the first time that athletes with disabilities were presented by the media on the front pages. Four years later, Terry Fox would continue to push the notion that persons with disabilities could attain astounding athletic feats. Fox's efforts were followed five years later by those of Rick Hansen. The Torontolympiad also benefited from over 3,000 volunteers, many of whom went on to become the leaders of the disability sport movement throughout Ontario.

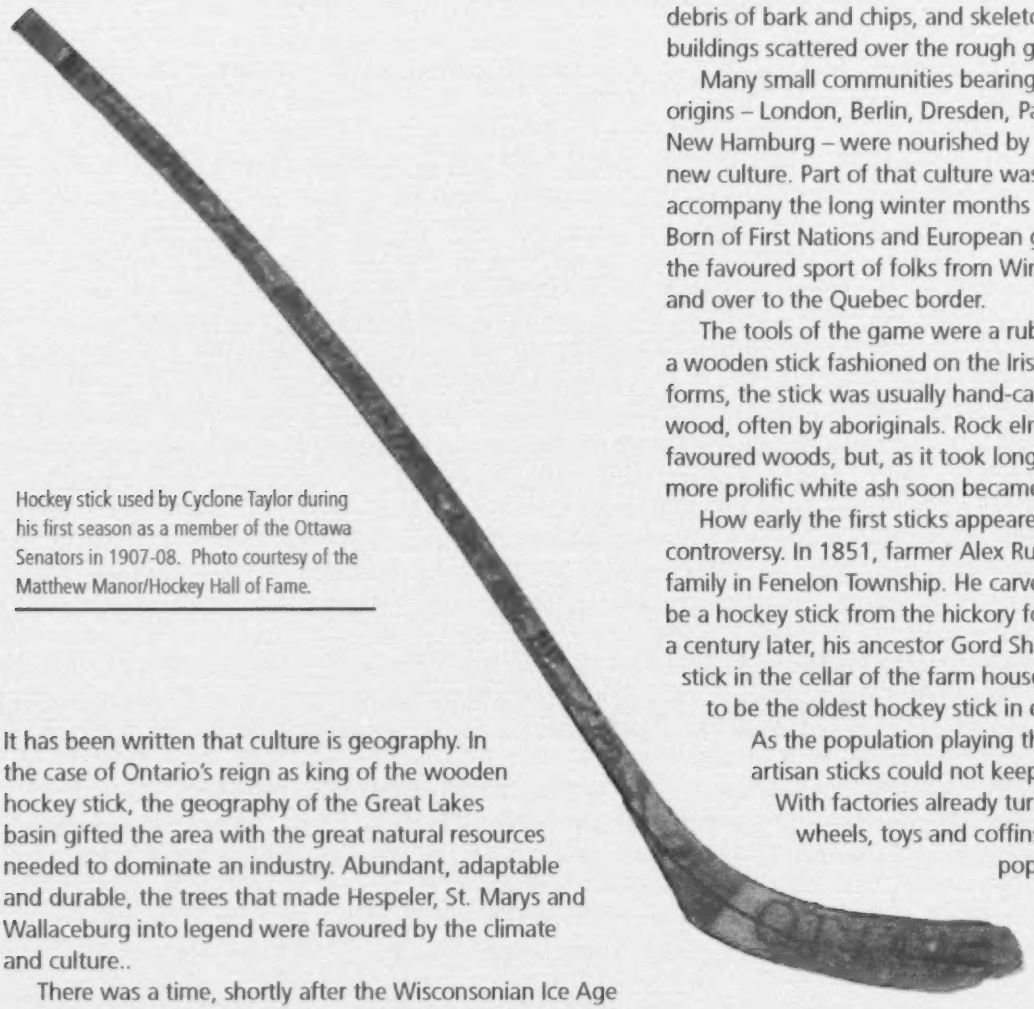
Prior to 1976, the Paralympic Games were small, wheelchair-only and relatively unknown Games. As a result, they were rarely influenced by politics. But, in 1976, all that changed. Suddenly, the world media spotlight focused on the Paralympic movement in a way never before encountered.

Despite a rocky and uncertain build-up to the Games, the legacy that they left can still be seen in the organizational structures of disability sport and through the government and public support they receive. It can also be seen in the success of the Paralympic Games today, which has almost trebled in size since the Torontolympiad, and has gone on to become the second-largest multi-sport event in the world after the Olympic Games.

David Legg is a professor at Mount Royal University in Calgary. Past President of the Canadian Paralympic Committee, Legg is currently on the Sport Science Committee for the International Paralympic Committee. Ian Brittain is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Business in Society at Coventry University in the U.K. He specializes in sociological, historical and sports management aspects of disability and Paralympic sport.

Stick handling: The evolution of an icon

By Bruce Dowbiggin



Hockey stick used by Cyclone Taylor during his first season as a member of the Ottawa Senators in 1907-08. Photo courtesy of the Matthew Manor/Hockey Hall of Fame.

It has been written that culture is geography. In the case of Ontario's reign as king of the wooden hockey stick, the geography of the Great Lakes basin gifted the area with the great natural resources needed to dominate an industry. Abundant, adaptable and durable, the trees that made Hespeler, St. Marys and Wallaceburg into legend were favoured by the climate and culture..

There was a time, shortly after the Wisconsonian Ice Age withdrew from the shores of the Great Lakes, that a squirrel could, if it chose, go from Georgian Bay to Georgia on the branches of white ash trees and never touch the ground. The rich soil left when the ice retreated was fertile ground for the abundant forests that built Ontario in its pioneer days.

Those stands of ash, elm, maple and other hardwoods provided the houses, the wagons, the furniture and the fuel for European settlers who arrived in the new world. In central and southwestern Ontario, forests were cut down and reworked into the stuff of everyday life.

Catherine Parr Trail, who wrote of life in 19th-century Ontario, was an English bride arriving in 1833 to the sight of "a sawmill ... heaps of newly sawn boards, and all the debris of bark and chips, and skeleton frames of unfinished buildings scattered over the rough ground."

Many small communities bearing evidence of their origins – London, Berlin, Dresden, Paris, Exeter, Culloden, New Hamburg – were nourished by the forest, creating a new culture. Part of that culture was a fast, frozen game to accompany the long winter months that shrouded the area. Born of First Nations and European games, hockey became the favoured sport of folks from Windsor through Toronto and over to the Quebec border.

The tools of the game were a rubber disc, ice skates and a wooden stick fashioned on the Irish hurley. In its earliest forms, the stick was usually hand-carved from a bolt of wood, often by aboriginals. Rock elm or hornbeam were the favoured woods, but, as it took longer to regrow them, the more prolific white ash soon became the preferred wood.

How early the first sticks appeared is a matter of some controversy. In 1851, farmer Alex Rutherford settled his family in Fenelon Township. He carved what appeared to be a hockey stick from the hickory found in the area. Over a century later, his ancestor Gord Sharpe found the gnarled stick in the cellar of the farm house. It is believed by some to be the oldest hockey stick in existence.

As the population playing the game flourished, artisan sticks could not keep up with the demand. With factories already turning out furniture, wheels, toys and coffins for the growing population, the elements were in place to mass produce wooden sticks in a factory setting.

Saws were adapted to cut the timber into pallets. Huge presses employed for making pianos were adapted to bend those pallets into the familiar shape of a hockey stick. Ovens used to cure wood for axels and tresses were used to dry the green wood and make sticks more durable.

Here, Ontario was uniquely blessed by its geography. Hardwoods such as white ash, elm, alder, maple and hickory grew in many places in North America and in Europe. But the climate of the Great Lakes basin gave Ontario's trees unique

Hespeler St. Marys Wood Specialties Ltd., c. 1966. Photo courtesy of the Cambridge Archives.

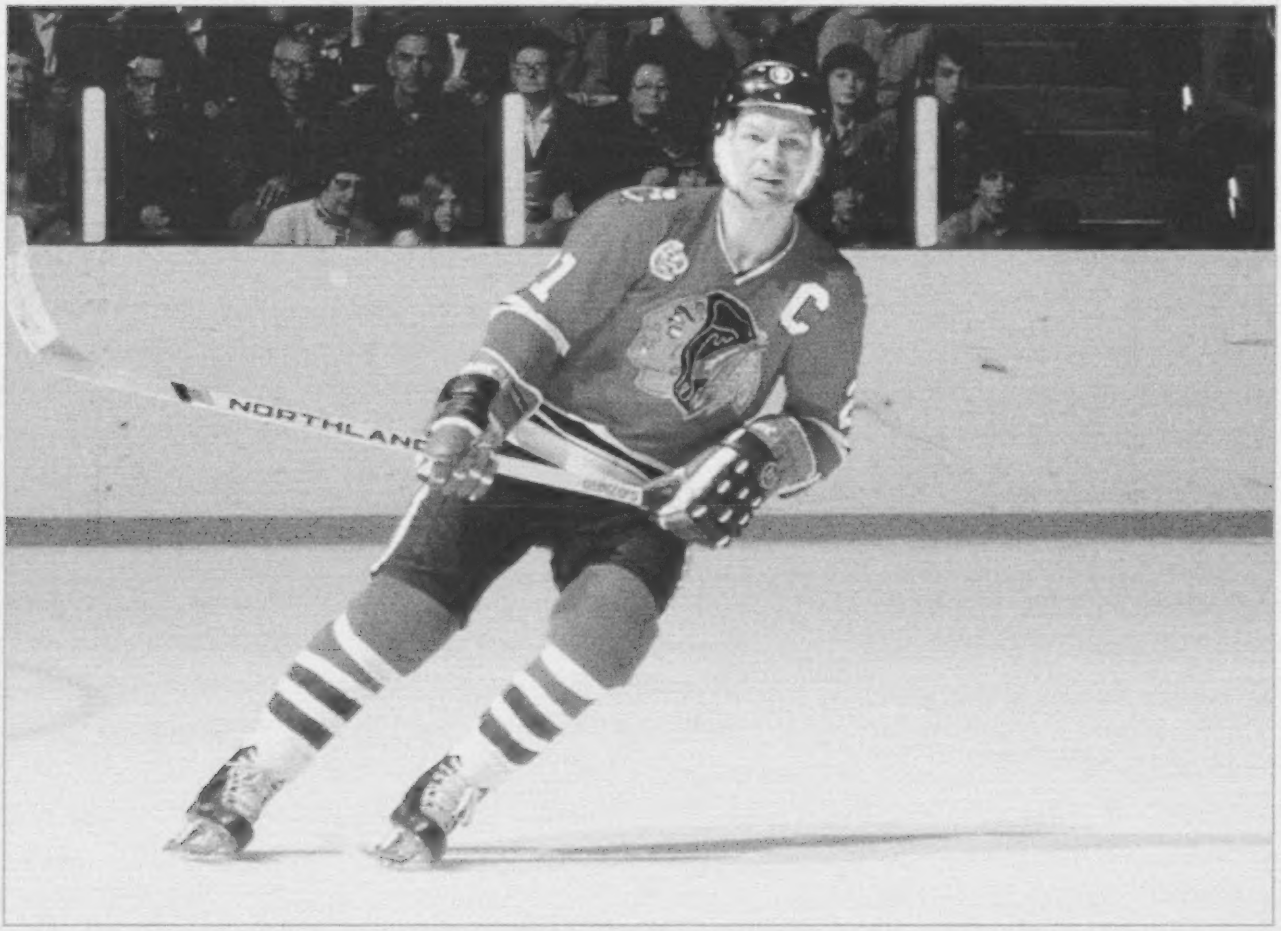
properties. The weather was cold enough to provide the lignin for stiffness and durability needed for a rough game. But the warm summers gave the wood the cellulose for flexibility that a great stick also demanded. Too far south in America, the wood was too soft. Too far north (or in Russia) and the wood was too stiff. Ontario's wood was just right.

By the 1920s, every town with a river, a mill and hockey players seemingly turned out sticks for a market that now stretched as far as the Prairies. Hespeler (in what is Cambridge today), Salyerds in Preston, Hillborn in Ayr, St. Marys Wood Products in St. Marys, Monarch in New Hamburg, Wally in Wallaceburg. In the Ottawa region, were more factories supplying sticks. Sometimes these factories produced sticks under other names for manufacturers like Spalding or the Eatons catalogue. Business was good enough that many of the factories discontinued other lines of products to concentrate on feeding the market for the hockey stick.

The Depression of the 1930s took a toll on Ontario's stick industry. Factories closed, businesses contracted and jobs were lost. Still, hockey survived. National Hockey League (NHL) star Howie Meeker, who later became a star on Hockey Night in Canada, grew up in Kitchener in the 1930s, where "three of four hockey stick plants" thrived. Meeker's father delivered bottled drinks for Kuntz's Brewery. One year, Meeker remembers, the company had a promotion awarding a free stick in exchange for so many bottle caps. "All of a sudden, my dad's warehouse was full of hockey sticks. So my friends, everyone, had all kinds of sticks to play with."

The names of the sticks were legend, too – Green Flash, Mic-Mac and Blue Flash. For Hall of Famer Bobby Hull, the St. Ann's native who played junior hockey in Galt and Woodstock, "Hespeler made the best sticks ... I used one all season. My father would buy it for me."

By the time the young Hull was bending his Hespelers with his rocketing slapshot, the construction of the stick itself had evolved. The original models were one-piece affairs, with the blade carved from the roots of the tree (the strongest wood). But they were largely inflexible for the sharpshooters of the NHL. Always searching for the ideal marriage of strength and flexibility in their sticks,



Stan Mikita and Bobby Hull are known for developing the curved blade in the 1960s. The two played for the Chicago Blackhawks and led the team to a Stanley Cup win in 1961. Stan Mikita, the Lester Patrick Trophy winner, playing in a game on March 6, 1976 at the St. Louis Arena, St. Louis, Missouri. Photo courtesy of the Hockey Hall of Fame.

designers began incorporating a two-piece and later three-piece design to hold the blade in place. A mortise joint was used to hold the blade and, after some experimentation to find the proper blend, industrial glues were employed to bond the heel.

Ontario remained supreme in sticks until the 1960s when it was challenged by Quebec companies such as Sher-Wood and Victoriaville. Still, the companies in southwestern Ontario flourished – even as they were swallowed up by larger multinational companies, such as Louisville and Nike.

The death knell came when Ontario wood was replaced in hockey sticks by the chemical/engineering marvels of graphite. Sadly, the creation of composite sticks doomed Ontario's traditional vintage wooden stick industry. Designed in labs, made in China and sold globally, the new generation of sticks is infinitely lighter and can fire a puck faster.

Oldtimers still consider the colourful composites overly prone to breakage, and their cost is 10 or 15 times what a Hespeler retailed for. But the younger generation would no sooner employ a wooden stick than use a rotary phone

Bruce Dowbiggin is an award-winning broadcaster and writer. He has authored seven books, including his latest Ice Storm: The Rise and Fall of the Greatest Vancouver Canucks Team Ever.

By the years

1834: Fergus Curling Club formed. It remains the oldest continuously operating curling club in the province.

1838: Baseball played for the first time in Beachville, Ontario between Oxford and Zorra townships. This first version of the game featured five bases, and players used a hand-hewn stick and a ball made of twisted yarn covered in calf skin.

1860: First Queen's Plate held on June 27 at Carleton Racetrack in Toronto, after Queen Victoria granted a plate with the value of 50 Guineas.

1867: National Lacrosse Association formed in Kingston. Twenty-seven clubs from Ontario and Quebec came together and adopted its official rules – making it the first sport organization in the province.

1891: Dr. James Naismith invented the game of basketball at the YMCA training school. He posted 13 rules to the game on the gym door, and nailed two peach baskets to the gym balconies.

1904: Galt Football (soccer) Club won Olympic gold in St. Louis, Missouri – before a national soccer association was created in Canada.

1917: National Hockey League (NHL) formed. Ontario represented by the Ottawa Senators and the Toronto Arenas.

1930: First British Empire Games (Commonwealth Games) held in Hamilton, with 11 nations, 59 events and 400 participants.

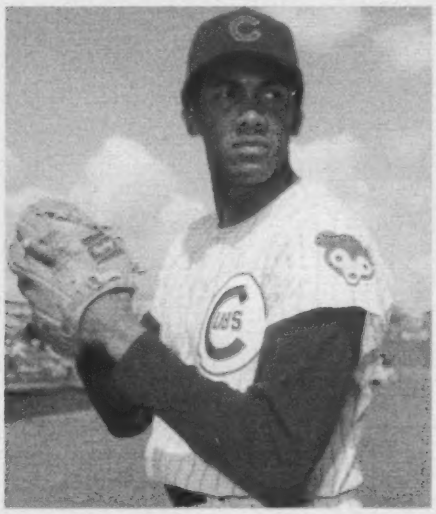
1931: First live play-by-play hockey broadcast by Foster Hewitt from the gondola at Maple Leaf Gardens.

1946: First game of the National Basketball Association (NBA) was played at Maple Leaf Gardens between Toronto and New York.

1963: Sam Jacks invented the sport of ringette in North Bay.

1969: The first Special Olympics national competition held in Toronto, with 1,400 participants.

1991: Fergie Jenkins was the first and only Canadian (to date) to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



Fergie Jenkins. Photo courtesy of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame.

Marilyn Bell preparing to swim, 1954. Photo courtesy of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame

the numbers

By Laura Walter

By the numbers

15 Rounds George Chuvalo fought Muhammad Ali in 1966 at Maple Leaf Gardens, without being knocked down.

18 Different sport teams that Lionel "The Big Train" Conacher played for during his 25-year career (1912-37) – including hockey, baseball, lacrosse and football.

42 Number of kilometres Billy Sherring ran to win the gold medal in the 1906 Olympics marathon event in Greece – the same course ran in 490 BC by Pheidippides between Marathon and Athens.

46 Age George Lyon was when he won the gold medal at the 1904 Olympics – the last time that golf was an Olympic sport.

1,657 Athletes competed from 32 nations, in 447 events at the fifth Paralympics held in Toronto in 1976.

3,807 Number of spectators at the first Grey Cup, held on Rosedale Field in Toronto in 1909.

5,250 Salary Frederick "Cyclone" Taylor was paid in 1907 to play for the Renfrew Millionaires – the highest-paid hockey player of his day.

6,449 Horse races won by Sandy Hawley during a 30-year career (1968-98), including four Queen's Plates and eight Woodbine Oaks.

70,000 People in Ottawa's Confederation Square who welcomed Barbara Ann Scott home after her Olympic gold medal win in singles figure skating in 1948. She remains the only Canadian (to date) to have won an Olympic medal in the event.

By the record book

3.3 seconds

Combined run advantage that secured Anne Heggtveit's gold medal in alpine skiing at the 1960 Olympics in Squaw Valley, California – the first gold medal for Canada in this event.

48.8 seconds

Time it took the Canadian women's relay team to win the gold medal at the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in the 4 x 100-metre relay.

2 hours, 24 minutes

Time it took Tom Longboat to win the 1907 Boston Marathon and set a new world record that was five minutes faster than the previous record.

20 hours, 59 minutes

Time it took 16-year-old Marilyn Bell to swim 64 km (39 miles) across Lake Ontario in September 1954. She was the first person to swim across the lake.

129 hours, 45 minutes

The world record set by marathon swimmer Vicki Keith for the longest continuous swim in 1986. She was the first person to swim all of the Great Lakes.

Laura Walter is a researcher with the Ontario Heritage Trust. She is a recent graduate of the University of Western Ontario's Public History Master's Program.

For more information about Ontario's sport figures and accomplishments, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca/sports.

Resources

On the shelf

- Hot Foot: Walter Knox's Remarkable Life as a Professional in an Amateur World, by David Town, Friesen Press, 2014.
- Puckstruck: Distracted, Delighted and Distressed by Canada's Hockey Obsession, by Stephen Smith, Greystone Books, 2014.
- Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame and the Thunder Bay Finnish Canadian Historical Society. A Century of Sport in the Finnish Community of Thunder Bay. Thunder Bay Finnish Canadian Historical Society, 2012.
- Gordie Howe. Mr. Hockey: My Story. Vikings Canada, 2014.
- George Chuvalo. Chuvalo: A Fighter's Life – The Story of Boxing's Last Gladiator. HarperCollins Publishers, 2014.

Online

Ontario Heritage Trust's Snapshots of Ontario's sport heritage

(www.heritagetrust.on.ca/sports)
Explore the significant athletes, teams, buildings and cultural artifacts that have impacted the history of Ontario's sport past.

Archives of Ontario: Significant Moments in Ontario's Sporting Past

(www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/sports/moments.aspx)
A virtual exhibit from the Archives of Ontario, focused on the influential moments of sport in Ontario with the use of items from their collection.

The Bobbie Rosenfeld and Lionel Conacher Award Winners

(www.conacher-rosenfeld.ca/les_gagnants-winners-eng.html)
Since the early 1930s, Canada's top male and female athletes have been recognized by The Canadian Press with either the Rosenfeld or the Conacher Award. This website gives a complete list of the winners along with stories and related artifacts.

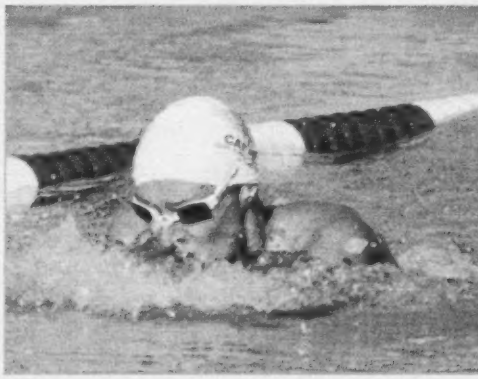
Hockey Hall of Fame

For all things related to hockey and the sport's history in the province, including biographies of honoured members, NHL player searches, Stanley Cup journals, hockey legends spotlight and photo galleries.

Anne Heggtveit. Photo courtesy of the Canadian Ski Museum. (Credit: Malak Karsh)

Dr. James Naismith, c. 1930. Photo courtesy of the Kansas University Archives.

Ada Mackenzie, 1926. Photo courtesy of the Golf Canada Archives.



Alex Baumann, 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Photo courtesy of the Canadian Olympic Committee.

Canada's Sports Hall of Fame

(www.sportshall.ca)

Canada's Sports Hall of Fame is an excellent resource for sport history, with stories and statistics for each inducted athlete or sport builder.

CBC Digital Archives

(www.cbc.ca/archives/categories/sports/)

The CBC Digital Archives has numerous fascinating sport videos, with some capturing key moments in Ontario's sport history and interviews with influential athletes – including: broadcast clips from Foster Hewitt, George Chuvalo's fight against Muhammad Ali and an interview with Fergie Jenkins.

Historica Canada's Heritage Minute/Footprint Videos

(www.historicacanada.ca/content/heritage-minutes)

Historica Canada has put together excellent short videos on some of the most influential athletes and key events in Canada's sport history. Check out "Basketball" about Dr. James Naismith and the invention of the game.

Ontario Sports Hall of Fame

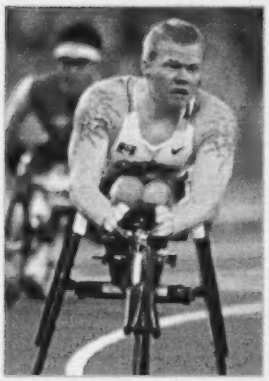
(www.ontariosportlegendshof.com)

The Ontario Sports Hall of Fame has biographies for each honoured member, displaying the contribution they have made to sport in the province.

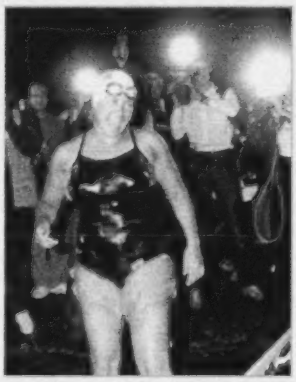
The Lou Marsh Legacy

(http://loumarsh.ca/en/athletes)

The Lou Marsh memorial trophy has been given out since the early 1930s to individual Canadian athletes who have displayed great achievements in sport. Notables include Marilyn Bell and Sandy Hawley.



Jeff Adams, 400-metre event, 2004. Photo courtesy of the Canadian Paralympic Committee.



Vicki Keith walking into Lake Ontario during the summer she swam across all of the Great Lakes, c. 1988. Photo courtesy of Vicki Keith.

Lou Marsh. Photo courtesy of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.

Mark McKoy, 1992 Olympics. Photo courtesy of the Canadian Olympic Committee.

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